

OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD  
Washington 25, D.C.

*File - COBAT*

February 7, 1958

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Committee on Broadcasting and Television (COBAT)

33rd Meeting held 2:00 P.M. February 6  
Room 2039 HEW Building

Working Group Members Present:

USIA	- Robert E. Button, Chairman Robert A. Bauer, alternate
State	- William A. McFadden Florence T. Dowling, alternate Richard T. Black (representing TPFB)
ICA	- Gerald Winfield
Defense	- John C. Broger
CIA	- Representative present
OCB Staff	- Ralph R. Busick Marjorie M. Denny

1. The minutes of the December 3 meeting were adopted. With reference to Item 2, the oral briefing given to COBAT on the work of the Committee on Radio Broadcasting Policy, the Chairman told of a meeting with the Executive Officer where it was agreed that COBAT would continue under its present terms of reference to concentrate on the problems related to overseas television, with occasional briefings on the work of the Policy Committee; and it was further agreed that there was no duplication involved in the work of the two committees.

2. The Chairman brought to the attention of COBAT Despatch No. 118 from USIS Bonn, dated January 29, which describes the competition that television in West Berlin is encountering from East Berlin. Possible avenues of assistance to West Berlin television in its programming were discussed. It was agreed that before the next meeting each member would prepare recommendations on the Berlin situation and transmit them to the Staff Representative, who would combine them into the first draft of a COBAT paper dealing with this problem. With reference to the overall policy problem, it was agreed that the separate agency policy statements prepared by the individual members would be pulled together into one package as a preliminary step in the preparation of an overall policy paper on television. (*Sender Fris Berlin needs support.*)

3. Reference Despatch No. 54 from New Delhi dated 11/26/57, a request for aid to an educational television station in India, soon to be brought into service, was discussed. The members of COBAT agreed with the ICA representative that this request, which came through USIS, should be referred back to the field, and should more properly have come through USOM channels.

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4. The Chairman informed COBAT of USIA's plans to have a regional television adviser stationed in Beirut, to work under the PAO and lend assistance to the developing situation in Beirut, and also Teheran and Baghdad, as requested.

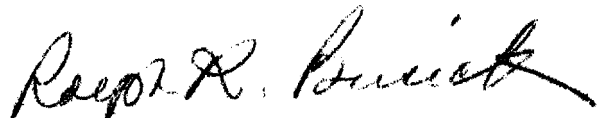
*(Ted Long is to have this job)*

5. The TV situation in Iran, with particular reference to the relationship among USIS, the Armed Forces program, and the local commercial station in Teheran, was discussed. The Defense member informed that the Armed Forces would be building a television station in Teheran, as their program for Iran was shelved at the present time.

6. The members discussed the East/West television exchange program. Reference was made to two meetings on television to be held in the Soviet Union: the OIR (International Broadcasting Organization of Iron Curtain countries) at Moscow in April, 1958; and Study Group 11 of the CCIR (International Consultative Committee study group on television) in June, 1958. In the meantime, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) is to meet in Brussels in March, and a representative of USIA (the alternate USIA member on COBAT) will attend. The EBU members were invited to attend the OIR meeting but have declined. Discussion developed the opinion that the OIR will press for across-the-curtain program exchanges with EBU countries, and will play up the US/USSR exchange agreement; otherwise the curtain countries will probably push over-the-border transmissions via the Tallinn, Bratislava, Murmansk, etc. stations. The question will doubtless be explored informally at Brussels. It was agreed that the USIA representative should have guidance from the State Department on the US point of view before his departure for the EBU meeting.

*attached*

7. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairman.



Ralph R. Busick  
Staff Representative